



CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The reason for the inactivity of some institutes is that a number of the ministries and departments to which the institutes are subordinate have been directing the operations of the institutes very poorly; they have not been evaluating their importance nor aiding them in their operations. For example, the "FIIzhelezobeton" (Scientific Research Institute for Reinforced Concrete) and "NIigornerud" (Scientific Research Institute for the Mining of Nonmetallic Minerals), both organized within the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR in 1951, are still enjoying a "period of organization."

LATVIAN BUILDERS FEEL STONE, GRAVEL SHORTAGE -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija, 21 Apr 53

In line with the production increases to be made in the Fifth Five-Year Plan by the USSR construction materials industry, Latvia expects to expand its production of brick 3.2 times, tile 6 times, lime and sewer pipes 2 times, and slate and tar roofing paper 1.5 times.

During the period 1949 - 1952 the republic's construction materials industry received more than 10 million rubles' worth of new equipment. The industry has received tens of excavators and trucks, hundred of carts, many loading machines, scrapers, bulldozers, auto cranes, swinging power shovels, and both steam and electric locomotives.

The extraction of clay is now mechanized 95 percent, stripping work 93 percent, and interplant hauling of raw materials and semfinished products 72 percent.

In 1950, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Latvian SSR turned over to industrial combines, industrial cooperatives, and other organizations a number of its small brick and lime plants. However, a majority of these enterprises have not been working at full capacity.

The republic's building and planning organizations have been indifferent toward the use of "rigips," a new-type dry plaster building material, and as a result it is hardly used in Latvia, although it is used by builders in other USSR republics. Gypsum blocks, which are manufactured by the Salaspils Gypsum Plant and are used to a great extent in the building projects of Leningrad and the Moldavian SSR, are not used by Latvian builders either.

Lately, Latvian building organizations have been feeling the shortage of rubblestone and gravel. Although considerable deposits of these materials are found in the republic, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Latvian SSR has so far shown very little concern for extracting these materials.

RIGA ENTERPRISES MAKE PLEDGES FOR 1953 -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija, 18 Apr 53

Construction materials enterprises of Riga have pledged to fulfill their 1953 quotas ahead of schedule and to produce 40,000 square meters of window glass, 250,000 square meters of soft roofing material, 400,000 square meters of dry plasterboard, 700,000 pieces of thin slate slabs, and 250 tons of sewer pipes.

The enterprises also pledged to increase their labor productivity 2 percent above that called for in the plan, and to put into use 1,950 square meters of living quarters.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

SPARE PARTS SHORTAGE HAMPERMOLDAVIAN PLANTS -- Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldavia, 19 Apr. 53

In 1953, the Moldavian SSR is increasing its building program considerably over 1952, and building projects will need almost 32 percent more materials than in 1952. The production of brick and the extraction of stone will be expanded 38 percent, and tile production will be 1.5 times greater than in 1952. Ceramic pipe output has already reached a level more than double that of 1952. In the first quarter 1953, considerably more building materials were extracted and manufacture than in the same period in 1952.

Despite this, a majority of the construction materials plants failed to fulfill their first-quarter quotas. The Mateytay Lime Plant, Bychkovo Shell Rock Development, and the Tiraspol' and Kishinev No 3 brick plants failed to supply the republic with more than 1.5 million rubles' worth of building materials in this period. At a number of enterprises, the power plants and equipment have been idle because of a shortage of spare parts.

In 1953, advanced technology is being introduced in the construction materials industry. The quarries will have 1.5 times as many excavators and stone-cutting machines working in their quarries as in 1952. Tile production will be mechanized completely and the forming of the brick will be mechanized 98 percent.

Nevertheless, in many enterprises, especially the Tiraspol' and the Kishinev No 2 brick plants, and the Bychkovo Shell Rock Development, highly productive technology is not being utilized to fullest capacity. In these enterprises, machinery is idle for considerable periods.

50X1-HUM

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL